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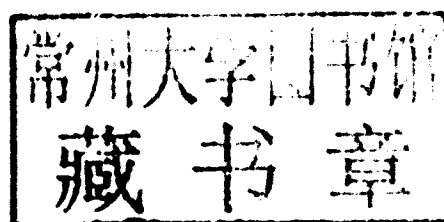
**FAO WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SECURING
SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES**

Rome, 7-10 February 2012



Report of the
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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document provides a summary of the presentations, discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the workshop on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, held on 7–10 February 2012. Participants did not formally adopt this report.

Gratefully acknowledged are the financial contributions for the conduct of the workshop and the publication of this report by the Governments of the Netherlands and Sweden through the FAO Multi-Partner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM), by Norway and by the Korean Yeosu Project.

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ABSTRACT

In June 2011, the twenty-ninth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) recommended the development of international guidelines for small-scale fisheries (“SSF Guidelines”). As part of its strategic development process, the FAO Secretariat is engaging in an extensive consultative process with governments, regional organizations, civil society organizations, and small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities. In this context, a consultative workshop on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries was convened in Rome, Italy, on 7–10 February 2012. The workshop brought together about 30 experts from government, regional organizations, civil society and academia to further discuss the structure, overall considerations and thematic coverage of the Guidelines and to consolidate ideas put forth in the regional and national consultations. Advice was given concerning next steps and additional activities in the guidelines development process.

The workshop confirmed the importance of small-scale fisheries as a contributor to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, and economic development. The SSF Guidelines should complement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and draw on its principles and approaches and the discussions confirmed that the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines should include good governance and human rights. Additional principles, approaches and frameworks to be referred to include equity, economic viability, ecosystem based, holistic and integrated approaches. Participants encouraged continued and strengthened collaboration and partnerships, both with regard to the development of the SSF Guidelines as well as for their implementation.

The workshop noted the need to build bridges between different stakeholder visions – within the fisheries sector as well as outside – to ensure coherence. A new vision on how to ensure access for small-scale fisheries communities and giving them resource stewardship responsibilities may be needed, reflecting the need for combining livelihood security and environmental sustainability as one cannot be achieved without the other. Participants stressed that the small-scale fisheries sector should not be portrayed as one in need of aid and as being development dependent, but as a real contributor to socio-economic development and livelihood security.

The SSF Guidelines should be a set of ideals to empower the sector and it will be important to create awareness of the potential of small-scale fisheries – if supported and not marginalized – and to build political will at all levels. The workshop agreed that the SSF Guidelines can become a powerful tool in achieving sustainable governance and development of the sector. Support to their implementation will be important, requiring concerted efforts and organizational development and strengthening of capacities at all levels.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADG	Assistant Director-General
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CC(A)	climate change (adaptation)
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CFi	Community fisheries (Cambodia)
EU CFP	European Union Common fisheries policy
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
COFI	Committee on Fisheries (FAO)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRM	disaster risk management
EAF	ecosystem approach to fisheries
EU	European Union
EU CFP	European Union Common fisheries policy
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
ICT	information and communication technology
ICT4D	information and communication technology for development
ICZM	integrated coastal zone management
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IGO	intergovernmental organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPC	International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ITQ	individual transferable quotas
IUU fishing	illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
IWRM	integrated water resource management
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MPA	marine protected area
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NFFP	NEPAD-FAO Fish Programme
NGO	non-governmental organization
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSPESCA	Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuicola del Istmo Centroamericano (Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector)
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy papers
RESEX	extractive reserves (Brazil)
REC	Regional Economic Community
RFB	regional fishery bodies
SFLP	Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SSF	small-scale fisheries
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
SWAP	sector wide approach
TURF	territorial use rights in fisheries
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
WFF	World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Workshop on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries took place in FAO, Rome, Italy, on 7–10 February 2012. It was attended by 29 external participants from governments, regional organizations, civil society organizations and academia as well as more than 20 FAO staff members. The overall purpose of the workshop was to contribute to a first preliminary draft of the Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (“SSF Guidelines”) – taking into consideration the outcomes of the consultation process so far – and to provide recommendations for the next steps in the development of the SSF Guidelines.

The workshop was organized around plenary presentations (in particular on the outcomes of stakeholder consultations that have taken place in 2011 and 2012) and discussions, and working group sessions. A total of 12 working groups discussed overall considerations and the proposed thematic areas of the SSF Guidelines. The topics discussed included:

- title, structure, scope and target audience;
- characterization of small-scale fisheries;
- key guiding principles and thematic areas;
- resource governance, access regimes and enforcement (access and governance principles, responsibilities and enforcement mechanisms) + subgroup on safety-at-sea;
- social and economic development (holistic perspective on poverty and related vulnerabilities, income security and alternative livelihoods);
- disaster risks and climate change;
- postharvest employment and value chains;
- social and gender equity (social and economic equality and equity, gender, child labour, integration of migrants);
- policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration;
- research and information needs, sources and exchange;
- capacity development; and
- implementation support and monitoring.

The workshop was also forward looking and provided recommendations for possible considerations and actions needed to promote and support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Furthermore, the workshop offered advice to the FAO Secretariat with regard to the road map and next steps in the SSF Guidelines development process and what additional actions may be required to ensure that a negotiated document can be presented to COFI in 2014 for approval.

The importance of securing broad support for the Guidelines in both developing and developed countries and to collaborate with a variety of different partners was noted. The SSF Guidelines will only become useful and make a difference if they are implemented. For this reason, the workshop agreed that implementation strategies should already be discussed at an early stage and the pro-active development of a framework programme to support implementation in developing countries was proposed.

The next steps in the SSF Guidelines development process include the preparation, by the FAO Secretariat, of a Zero Draft of the SSF Guidelines. This document will provide a basis for continued consultations leading to draft SSF Guidelines that will be submitted to the formal negotiation process scheduled for the second quarter of 2013. The intention is to present a negotiated final draft document for approval to the thirty-first Session of COFI to be held in July 2014.

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INTRODUCTION

Taking account of the increased recognition of the important role played by small-scale fisheries – particularly for developing countries in the context of food security and poverty alleviation – the twenty-ninth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2011 recommended that an international instrument for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries be developed. This instrument should complement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and take the form of guidelines that draw on existing relevant international instruments. These guidelines (“SSF Guidelines”) should address both inland and marine small-scale fisheries and focus on the needs of developing countries.

A considerable number of activities – including several global and regional conferences and workshops organized by FAO and partner organizations– have taken place during recent years and furthered the small-scale fisheries agenda.¹ The current SSF Guidelines development process builds on this accumulated knowledge and experience. Stakeholder involvement continues to be a fundamental consideration. The Workshop on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries was organized by the FAO Secretariat on 7–10 February 2012 in FAO headquarters in Rome in order to take stock of the consultation process so far, discuss key considerations, principles and Guidelines contents, and to provide recommendations for a preliminary draft of the instrument (a *Zero Draft* of the SSF Guidelines), which will provide the basis for continued consultations. The workshop also provided advice on next steps and additional activities in the SSF Guidelines development process. The intention is to finalise a negotiated text of the SSF Guidelines for approval by the thirty-first Session of COFI in July 2014 (see also the chapter on *WAY FORWARD* below).

This report summarizes the workshop results and intends to provide a useful reference document that will feed into the process of preparing “Zero Draft”) of the small-scale fisheries (SSF) Guidelines, together with the results from the national and regional consultations. It focuses on proposals and findings of the workshop that are not yet covered in the FAO *Discussion document: Towards voluntary guidelines on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries*, prepared in July 2011.²

It should be noted that the workshop did not adopt a report or provide unanimously agreed recommendations. On several topics, the workshop provided alternative proposals and it was stated that it would be the task of the FAO Secretariat to decide which approach to adopt in the preparation of the Zero Draft of the SSF Guidelines.

WORKSHOP ARRANGEMENTS

Venue and participation

The workshop took place in FAO, Rome, Italy, on 7–10 February 2012. It was attended by 29 external participants as well as more than 20 FAO staff, in particular from the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department but also from the FAO Legal Office. The external participants represented a wide spectrum of small-scale fisheries stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs), governments, regional organizations and fisheries bodies, and academia. FAO staff participated both in their technical roles but also as working group facilitators and rapporteurs of the working groups. The list of participants can be found in appendix 1.

¹ See for example <http://sites.google.com/site/smallscalefisheries/> and www.fao.org/fishery/ssf/meetings/selected-events/en

² Available at www.fao.org/fishery/ssf/guidelines/en (also in French, Spanish and Arabic).

Opening session

The workshop was opened by the Assistant Director-General (ADG) of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Mr Árni Mathiesen. He gave a warm welcome to all participants, expressing his appreciation of their expertise and willingness to take part in the workshop and in the SSF Guidelines development process and underlined the importance of small-scale fisheries as contributor to food security and poverty alleviation. He stressed that small-scale fisheries are a priority for the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and that FAO has a vision to see the contribution of small-scale fisheries to sustainable development fully realized, to end the sector's marginalization, to ensure full participation of SSF stakeholders in decision making and – in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – to contribute to ending poverty and food insecurity. The Guidelines are a prominent step in attaining these aspirations and are expected to provide valuable guidance based on the wealth of knowledge on SSF accumulated so far (see also appendix 2).

Mr Rolf Willmann, Senior Fishery Planning Officer, FAO, joined Mr Mathiesen in welcoming the workshop participants. He recalled the early beginnings and the major milestones of the discussions eventually leading to the COFI recommendation in 2011 to develop an international instrument on small-scale fisheries as a complement to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

He then outlined the purpose and expected outputs of the workshop, i.e.:

- Recommendations with regard to the title, structure, scope and target audience of the Guidelines, including chapter headings (corresponding to key thematic areas) and specific requirements concerning language and style.
- Proposals for contents, including draft text elements for key sections/thematic areas and recommendations with regard to how the definition or characterization of small-scale fisheries should be addressed and what the key guiding principles should be.
- Recommendations with regard to the next steps in the Guidelines development process (e.g. concerning the continued consultations, the report to be given to COFI 2012, the intergovernmental Technical Consultation scheduled for 2013, and the eventual submission of a negotiated SSF document to COFI in 2014).

After a round of self-introduction by all workshop participants, Mr Willmann suggested chairpersons for the subsequent plenary sessions:

Day 1 (7 February):	Mr John Kurien
Day 2 (8 February):	Ms Nancy Gitonga
Day 3 (9 February):	Ms Chandrika Sharma
Day 4 (10 February):	<i>Morning:</i> Mr Edward Allison
	<i>Afternoon:</i> Mr Johán Williams

The workshop elected the chairs as proposed and adopted the workshop agenda (see APPENDIX 3).

PLENARY PRESENTATIONS

Overview of relevant international instruments for the SSF Guidelines

Ms Margaret Vidar, FAO Legal Office, and Mr Willmann provided an overview of relevant existing international instruments and how they are linked to the SSF Guidelines. While there is a long list of relevant instruments, some of the most important ones are the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (the “Right to Food Guidelines”). Also the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests

in the Contexts of National Food Security, currently being negotiated through the Committee on World Food Security, have important links to small-scale fisheries and the SSF Guidelines (see also Box 1).

Box 1: Key international instruments relevant to small-scale fisheries

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action (1995)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- Declaration on the Right to Development
- ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work; and Work in Fishing Convention, many other conventions relating to above Covenants
- ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples
- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21
- International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the Hyogo Framework
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Johannesburg Plan of Action
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- UN Fish Stock Agreement

The *CCRF* is relevant in most or even all parts to small-scale fisheries. It makes specific references to small-scale fisheries in several places, in particular in paragraph 6.18 that states that the contributions of small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security should be recognized and that the rights of fishers and fishworkers should be protected, particularly those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries.

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* declares a number of key civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. The declaration and other human rights instruments are the basis for a human rights based approach, which in FAO are often listed as mnemonic PANTHER (*Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Transparency, Human dignity, Empowerment, Rule of law (recourse)*). Interpreted in the context of small-scale fisheries, this could mean, for example:

- stakeholder representation in fisheries management bodies;
- small-scale fisheries representation;
- devolution of fisheries management to local communities;
- fisheries legislation has clear provisions on institutional roles and responsibilities of different actors;
- breaches of fisheries law are punished and deterred;
- fisheries legislation pays special attention to indigenous groups, women, minorities, protection of children;
- differentiates between small-scale and industrial fishing;
- clarity and communication of fisheries management measures, including consideration for traditional fishers;
- quota and other fishing rights allocations are published;
- fisheries enforcement measures respect human dignity;
- fishworkers and fishers have dignified conditions of work;
- small-scale fishers know their human and fishing rights and how to claim them;

- small-scale fishers have access to general and specific education to help them improve their livelihoods;
- decisions on fisheries are taken in accordance with law and on the basis of legal authority;
- information about recourse is easily accessible to all, including small-scale fishers; and
- Special measures for access to justice for small-scale fishers.

The Vienna Declaration on Human Rights – the key outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights held by the United Nations in Vienna, Austria, in 1993 – reaffirmed the interdependence of democracy, economic development and human rights, which means that one cannot look at any human right in isolation from others. The declaration states that all human rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

The *UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous people* contains important provisions for self-determination, development “with identity”, free, prior and informed consent, land rights and natural resource access, cultural rights and collective rights.

The right to food (according to the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*) recognizes the right to adequate food (as part of the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living) and also the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. The Right to Food Guidelines³ include provisions that are directly relevant to small-scale fisheries, including the following issues and topics:

- inclusiveness and non-discrimination;
- fair returns from labour, capital and management;
- women, vulnerable groups, traditionally disadvantaged;
- small-scale and traditional fishers;
- respect and protection of resource access, especially for livelihoods;
- economic opportunities for vulnerable groups; and
- sustainable management of fisheries.

The SSF Guidelines need to take these and other already existing provisions into consideration. It will be important to build on the existing frameworks and to apply the general provisions in these instruments to the specific context and needs of coastal and inland fishing communities.

The SSF Guidelines development process: consultations and activities undertaken so far

Ms Lena Westlund, Fisheries consultant, FAO, gave an overview of the consultation process to-date and reported on the outcomes of the consultation meetings and workshops that she had participated in. She also gave an overview of the contents of the FAO SSF Discussion Document.⁴

While the small-scale fisheries agenda has been promoted for a couple of decades, recent FAO related milestones include the global conference on *Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development* in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2008, and the global and regional meetings conducted within the framework of a consultative process in 2009 and 2010. As a result of these and other activities, the twenty-ninth Session of COFI in 2011 recommended the development of International Guidelines on small-scale fisheries.

³ Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, adopted by FAO Council in 2004.

⁴ Discussion Document: Towards voluntary guidelines on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries available at www.fao.org/fishery/topic/18241/en

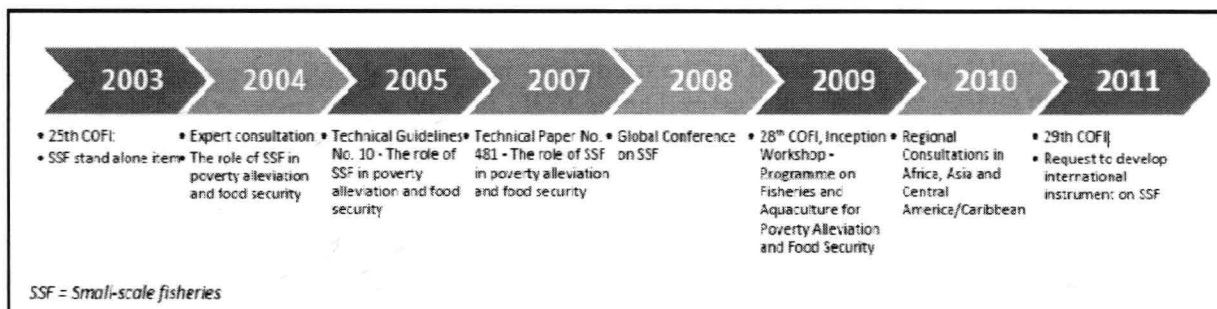


Figure 1: Key FAO SSF events 2003–2011

After this decision, the consultation process intensified and to consolidate the knowledge and information available and to facilitate the continuation of the consultations the FAO Secretariat prepared and published a SSF Discussion Document in July 2011. This document contains a discussion on the general considerations and various principles that the SSF Guidelines could be based on. It also gives an overview of different thematic areas based on the consultations carried out so far and other related activities that have been proposed to be covered by the SSF Guidelines. Moreover, the document contains references to key existing instruments, approaches and initiatives.

Ms Westlund participated in several of the consultation meetings that took place in 2011:

- Side event at inception phase workshop of the NEPAD-FAO Fish Programme (NFFP);
- National small-scale fisheries meetings (*National artisanal fisheries days*) in Morocco and Tunisia organized by the FAO projects ArtFiMed and CopeMed in collaboration with national counterparts;
- Two CSO-led regional events in Mbour, Senegal:
 - World Fisheries Day workshop (specifically to discuss the SSF Guidelines), and
 - Workshop on transparency in the African marine fisheries sector
- Workshop on marine protected areas (MPAs) in Bangkok, Thailand.

The outcomes of the different events gave an important list of recommendations. Some of the main points and lessons learnt noted by Ms Westlund include:

- There is a need for awareness raising, about the small-scale fisheries sector in general and about the SSF Guidelines in particular, and to anchor the SSF Guidelines at all scales and levels.
- Data and information are generally lacking, which makes awareness raising more difficult. Efforts are needed to remedy this gap.
- Organizational development and capacity are key to involving small-scale fishers and fishworkers both in the SSF Guidelines development and implementation process and to allow them to influence their own development and livelihoods.
- A key issue when developing the SSF Guidelines is likely to be how to reconcile short and long-term objectives and combine sustainable livelihoods and sustainable resource use. There is a need to define rights and responsibilities for now and for the future.

The CSO consultation process

Mr Naseegh Jaffer, World Forum of Fisher Peoples – WFFP, explained how the CSO community has engaged in the SSF Guideline development process. The process is fully supported by fishers and fishworkers worldwide who have pledged their engagement and commitment through their civil society organizations International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), World Forum of Fishworkers and Fish Harvesters (WFF) and WFFP and with the support of the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC). Mr Jaffer confirmed that the CSO group is passionate about democratic practices and stressed that small-scale fisheries issues are primarily collective issues

related to self-determination, customary rights and self-reliance to ensure sustainable livelihoods. During the Global Conference on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in 2008, the CSOs organized a parallel event that agreed on the need of an international SSF instrument and discussed how CSOs can engage with FAO processes. During COFI in 2009, CSOs organized a side event and made a presentation in the plenary. Together with local partners, the CSO group has carried out ten national consultations and is looking at organising another six or seven.⁵ A final comprehensive document based on these consultations will be submitted to FAO as a formal CSO input to the SSF Guidelines development process. The CSO group has also prepared two reports, one on process and one on how to organize workshops to ensure inclusion of voices from the ground, including from interrelated sectors. It is expected that the SSF Guidelines development process will help to establish an enabling environment for national governments to implement the SSF Guidelines as the intention of the consultation process is not only to consult but also to develop national capacity.

Mr Jaffer also reported on the development of a new legal framework for small-scale fisheries in South Africa, the experience of which could feed into the SSF Guidelines.

Summaries of India and Central America consultation workshops

Ms Chandrika Sharma, ICSF, reported on the consultations undertaken in India and in Central America. In **India**, 62 participants representing the inland and marine fishing communities, fishworker organizations, and non-governmental organizations, participated in a National Workshop on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-Scale Fisheries on 19–21 September 2011 in Kolkata, West Bengal, India. The workshop initially debated the definition of small-scale fisheries and it was concluded that:

- In the inland sector, both freshwater capture fisheries and sustainable forms of culture-based capture fisheries, primarily dependent on indigenous species, are small-scale fisheries.
- In the marine fisheries sector, only fishing operations by vessels below 20 m length that do not operate trawl or employ mechanized towing or hauling power (but operate fishing gear manually) and on which owners are full-time fishers, are small-scale fishers.
- Small-scale fishers would include: owner-operators from traditional fishing communities, fishworkers, workers associated with and involved in the above fishing operations, as well as women engaged in post-harvest activities.
- Traditional fisheries may be divided into traditional small-scale and traditional large-scale. The latter should fish in waters beyond the territorial limits.
- Social development issues are however common to all members of traditional fishing communities.

The workshop participants called upon the Government of India, the States, the Union Territories, and the Panchayats, as appropriate, to address their concerns and to recognize and defend the rights of small-scale fishing communities. The statement agreed by the workshop included aspects relating to resources management, coastal and marine environment protection, rights to land and housing, rights to social and economic development, post-harvest activities, labour, working and living conditions, climate change and disaster preparedness, and capacity building. A selection of the proposals made include:

- respect, protect and secure the rights of traditional fishing communities to fishing grounds;
- vest fishing communities with the right to manage resources, including in national parks and sanctuaries;
- adopt measures to phase out bottom trawling from territorial waters over a period of five years;
- prohibit the construction of new trawlers and purse-seiners;
- Restrict the ownership of fishing vessels to one vessel per fishing family, including through community regulations;

⁵ The results of the different workshops and meetings can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/smallscalefisheries/>

- Secure the rights of fishing communities to land for housing and for fishery-related activities;
- Issuance of land titles (*pattas*) for housing, and protect space used for fishery-related activities as common property;
- Protect the rights of fishing communities to housing in urban and tourist areas; and
- Recognize and secure the land rights of fishers and fishing communities (in relation to both private and common property) in land revenue records.

In **Central America**, national level consultations have taken place in five countries: Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama and Nicaragua, coordinated by CoopeSoliDar, an NGO from Costa Rica. The events were organized mainly by fishworker organizations and NGOs with support from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). A booklet based on the FAO SSF Discussion Document was produced by CoopeSoliDar for the workshop participants to make its contents widely accessible.

The workshops noted the high degree of heterogeneity in small-scale fisheries. The small-scale fishing sector is seen as comprising fishers as well as others, including women, youth and the elderly, who play a role in the production chain and who pursue this way of life, with its own cultural identity. The sector tends to be characterized by poverty and marginalization and achieving responsible and sustainable fisheries may not be possible given the level of poverty, desperation and lack of hope. Many fishing dependent communities face:

- competition from industrial trawling in coastal waters;
- encroachment and pollution from aquaculture, intensive agriculture (sugar cane), tourism, urban and industrial development, etc.; and
- violence from drug trafficking.

Selected proposals made in the workshops include:

- defend exclusive artisanal fishing areas on the marine side (e.g. in Nicaragua 3 miles on the Pacific and Caribbean coasts and 25 miles around the islands and bays; in Costa Rica 3 miles from the coast and marine areas for responsible fisheries; Honduras industrial fishing/trawling outside 9 miles/outside 60 metre depths);
- protect inland waters that are reserved for artisanal fishing;
- protect customary collective rights (no privatization);
- support formation of fishworker associations able to represent communities and groups in decision making processes;
- recognize and support the role of women;
- improve fisheries governance and enable communities to plan and implement fisheries management and conservation programmes;
- support fish marketing and assurance of fair returns on labour for fishworkers;
- ensure provision of social security (sickness and retirement benefits) and basic amenities (water, health, education etc.);
- demarcate boundaries (Gulf of Fonseca) and promote safety at sea and security;
- regulate aquaculture and other industries that affect coastal biodiversity and livelihoods of small-scale fisheries and ensure that they protect human rights of SSF communities; protect whistle blowers; and
- prefer the Guidelines not to be voluntary, i.e. 'voluntary' should not be mentioned in title (Nicaragua).

Ms Sharma also summarised some overall lessons learnt and insights generated so far in the SSF Guidelines consultation process. The workshops have further deepened the messages of the Bangkok statement prepared by the CSOs in 2008 by bringing in national priorities and specificities. The workshops have also contributed to raising the profile of small-scale fisheries nationally and to strengthen small-scale fisheries organizations, which improves the chances of implementation of the

SSF Guidelines. The consultation process based on such national and regional workshops is consistent with the point of view of the CSO community that process is as important as outcome.

Summary of Uganda workshop⁶

Ms Margaret Nakato, WFF, talked about the consultation workshop carried out in Uganda. It was attended by fishers, fishworker organizations, boat owners, fish mongers, boat builders, NGOs, policy makers, researchers, small-scale processors and leaders of Beach Management Units from all Ugandan lakes. In addition to contribute to the SSF Guidelines development, the purpose of the workshop was also to increase the visibility of and awareness about small-scale fisheries and to enhance communications between the government and CSOs.

The workshop discussed the definition of small-scale fisheries and noted that it is a very diverse sector in Uganda where different definitions might apply to different water bodies. Still, some common characteristics include usually non-motorized craft, low levels of investment and capital, inadequate access to social services (e.g. education, health services, credit facilities), limited fishing effort, catch mainly used for domestic consumption and/or occasional sales, and owner-operated (individual, family or community group) fishing units. The last aspect, owner-operation, was considered the most important aspect.

The workshop identified a long list of issues affecting small-scale fisheries, e.g. the impact of climate change and disaster risks, illiteracy, lack of sense of ownership of resources and the use of illegal destructive practices, new entrants in Lake Victoria, uncoordinated monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities, impact of other sectors (tourism, agriculture), and limited access to social services and infrastructure (health, education, etc.).

Based on this analysis, a number of proposals for action were made, some of which are highlighted here:

- commission research on the status of species and establish specific closed seasons to support sustainable fisheries initiatives;
- establish institutional arrangements that give priority to fish for local consumption over fish for export;
- prioritize the provision of basic services such as clean water, sanitation, education, health and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services for fishing communities; and
- integrate local knowledge in fisheries management decision making processes.

The workshop recognized the importance of the SSF Guidelines and the need for all concerned parties to lobby state institutions at all levels to encourage their adoption and implementation. In addition, the workshop recommended that once the SSF Guidelines have been adopted they are translated and disseminated at the local level. It was suggested that communities should be involved in annual reviews of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Regarding increasing local community responsibility, it was stressed that it is difficult to convince small-scale fishworkers that they own fisheries resources when they rarely own the means of production, and even more rarely the land on which they live. The workshop closing remarks were made by the Ugandan State Minister for Fisheries who reiterated the government's commitment to support small-scale fisheries and their communities' efforts towards achieving sustainable livelihoods.

Summary of Brazil consultation workshop⁷

Mr Mauro Ruffino, former Special Secretariat for Aquaculture and Fisheries, Brazil, reported on the national workshop in Brazil that took place in November 2011 and which was attended by

⁶ The full report and statement of the workshop are available at <http://sites.google.com/site/smallscalefisheries/events/uganda>

⁷ The full report and statement of the workshop are available at <http://sites.google.com/site/smallscalefisheries/events/brazil>